

Message Text

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ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02

FEA-02 DRC-01 /166 W

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P 210725Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2791

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRC, JA

SUBJ: LOGS: JAPAN VOLUNTARY IMPORT RESTRAINTS

REF: TOKYO 7443

SUMMARY: FONOFF ADVISED EMBASSY THAT GOJ PROPOSES TO MONITOR LEVEL OF LOG AND CANT IMPORTS DURING PERIOD JULY 1974 TO JUNE 1975 BUT WILL BE PREPARED TO REIMPOSE PREVIOUS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IF INDICATIONS ARE THAT IMPORTS WILL SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEED TEN MILLION CUBIC METERS. JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON INSTRUCTED REQUEST USG REACTION TO PROPOSAL BY JUNE 22.

1. SAITO (DIRECTOR, SECOND NORTH AMERICA DIVISION, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, FOREIGN OFFICE) CALLED EMBASSY JUNE 21 TO ADVISE IT THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO JAPANESE EMB. WASHINGTON JUNE 20 TO INFORM USG OF GOJ POSITION ON LOGS. ACCORDING TO SAITO QTE CONFIDENTIAL TALKING PAPER UNQTE SENT TO EMBASSY WASHINGTON CONSISTED OF FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) JAPANESE IMPORTERS OF US LOGS AND CANTS WILL BE REQUIRED UNDER PROVISIONS OF IMPORT TRADE CONTROL ORDER TO
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REPORT TO GOJ QUANTITY OF LOGS AND CANTS TO BE IMPORTED FROM

MAINLAND US. GOJ WILL THUS BE INFORMED OF QUANTITY OF SUCH LOGS AND CANTS ONE TO TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO THEIR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE.

(B) GOJ WILL USE AS GUIDELINE FIGURE TEN MILLION CUBIC METERS FOR IMPORTS OF LOGS AND CANTS FROM MAINLAND US FOR PERIOD JULY 1974 TO JUNE 1975.

(C) IF ACTUAL IMPORTS OF LOGS AND CANTS EXPECTED TO EXCEED SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE GUIDELINE, GOJ PREPARED TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH USG AND, IF USG SO REQUESTS, PREPARED TO TAKE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT REGULATORY MEASURES UNDER IMPORT TRADE CONTROL ORDER (I.E. SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH WILL EXPIRE JUNE 30).

(D) TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL CONSULT PERIODICALLY, E.G. TWICE A YEAR, AND WHENEVER EITHER SIDE SO REQUESTS, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND INFORMATION ON SUCH MATTERS AS MARKET SITUATION IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO LOGS. WHENEVER THERE IS A SHARP PRICE RISE OR UNUSUALLY TIGHT SUPPLY/DEMAND SITUATION DEVELOPS, BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL CONSULT.

(E) GOJ WILL TAKE ABOVE MEASURES IN HOPE THAT IF CONGRESS MOVES TOWARD LOG EXPORT CONTROL ACTIONS, US ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE SUCH MOVEMENT.

2. SAITO EMPHASIZED THAT GOJ WOULD NOT PUT ABOVE PROPOSAL INTO EFFECT UNLESS IT RECEIVED FAVORABLE USG REACTION. JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN USG REACTION BY JUNE 22.

3. SINCE FORMAL PRESENTATION AND RESPONSE BEING MADE IN WASHINGTON, EMBASSY DID NOT COMMENT ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SAITO.
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